

The Federal Communications Commission

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

Please do not do this to me. The flat fee proposal for contributing to Universal Service Fund is unfair, particularly to the elderly, and it is morally wrong.

In addition to my home service, I have a pre-paid cellular phone that I use only for traveling and emergencies. In the past six months, I have used only 27 minutes total, and most of these have been long distance calls. That is an average usage of 4.5 minutes per month. It is unfair to ask me to pay the same tax as someone who uses hundreds or thousands of minutes a month. Also, I make few calls from my residential phone, since for the most part, I only call my grandchildren and doctors -- most of whom are not local calls.

Although I am still working right now, I am a senior citizen facing retirement soon. My husband is already retired, and he is disabled. We have never been wealthy, and we have worked very hard to save for a decent (but not luxurious) retirement. Now we find that health care increases and taxes are whittling away at our prospects at an alarming rate.

I am very tired at seeing the people who earn more than \$100,000 a year get all the breaks, while those of us who earn less (and in many cases, much less) are asked to pay the same usage fees for significant less usage. It is about time that those who use more should pay more. They obviously have the means to pay, since they can afford to to use more -- I cannot. Why am I being asked to subsidize their voracious appetites for material things?

Please reject a flat fee proposal that would change how contributions are made to the Universal Service Fund. My wireless phone guards my safety and insures my ability to contact my disabled husband, while commuting in this congested, dangerous and extremely expensive metropolitan area (Washington DC). I cannot afford to pay tax increases on a service that I rarely use, but badly need as a backup.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Sue Mischke
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